

# Bering Sea–Western Interior RMP Scoping Meeting

## Crooked Creek Issue Summary

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### **Crooked Creek, Alaska December 5, 2013**

This issue summary was created by the BLM after a meeting with community representatives. This document summarizes what was shared and is provided to each community for verification or revisions before being considered final.

#### **Attendance:**

4 people from Crooked Creek attended a scoping meeting in Anchorage. 3 BLM representatives provided a presentation and discussion time around maps.

#### **Issues and concerns raised:**

##### ***General***

- We speak for ourselves, do not let anyone else say they represent our voice. We are concerned over other people's agendas and those people do not represent us or speak for us. BLM should not make the mistake of accepting anyone else's word or input as representing us.
- Don't go into this process with pre-conceived notions or ideas.
- The system you have isn't broke, why stir the pot and change things up with a new plan? Be careful that you do not fix something that isn't broken.
- Don't close the area down to economic development. It is hard for us to live our subsistence way of life nowadays and we do live in a cash economy. The biggest resource in our area is minerals and mining to bring cash into our local economy.
- CCTC weighs the pros and cons of development versus non-development. Local hire was the gain and we support development with the condition of local hire. We made very hard choices. We gave up our hunting area in exchange for local hire. They were hard choices but they allow our people to have an income. We just can't fish, hunt, and trap the way we used to and still feed our families.

##### ***BLM Land***

- We like the way BLM lands are currently managed and do not welcome a lot of change. BLM has little interference in our lives, we would like it to stay that way.
- Sometimes less is more and leaving your management as it currently is would reduce any future changes in our area. We are already saturated with change and are concerned over more change. We don't want to lose anything.
- There are many areas of land that are already "locked up" and we're concerned about potential decisions that would lock up more land.
- More so in the past and still sometimes today we run back and forth between Crooked Creek and Flat and Iditarod.

##### ***Fish-related***

- We frequently use the George River for subsistence moose, caribou, salmon, and trap beaver. There used to be 8,000 people that lived up the George River at one time.
- We use the Holitna River.
- and Oskawalik

##### ***Wildlife-related***

- Due to State Game Tier 2 regulations, we have to go onto Federal lands with Tier 2 permits to hunt our food.
- Unit 19A on BLM land is important to us.
- Transporters are flying people out to unit 19A for hunting and say they are "sharing expenses" with their passengers, not guiding. This creates more pressures on our subsistence resources.

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### ***Forestry-related***

- We have a sawmill in Crooked Creek and have mostly used wood from the river.
- We are interested in future timber available from BLM lands.

### ***Mineral Potential***

- We've been surrounded by mining for generations.
- Mining is a big resource in our area. We do not object to mining when it is done right.

### ***ACECs***

- The raptor nesting habitat ACEC is in the wrong place on the map, there aren't even any cliffs there. We can show you where raptors nest on the map, but not if it means people will come disturb the nests when they shouldn't. When a past study was done the biologists approached the nests, even when we told them not to, and the adults abandoned the nests. Again, don't fix something that isn't broken.

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